

DALBEATTIE HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MEETING OF 8TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Present – Lyn Burgess (Chairperson), Susan McLellan (Vice Chair), Ashley Little (Clerk), Donald Wallace (Headteacher), Andrea Irving, Marion Gourley, Robert Kennedy, Carolyn Kennedy, Stuart McCulloch, Maureen McCulloch, Alex Howie, Keith Walters, Danielle Burgess and Councillors Davie Stitt and Ian Blake.

1. Welcome

Lyn opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

Jill McDonald, Anne McMillan, Ian Clark (Treasurer). Also from Elaine Ross and Marie Roberts who are both standing down this year. Thank you to them for their contribution and support to the Parent Council.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising from previous minutes of 9th June 2009.

Approved – Carolyn Kennedy

Seconded – Stuart McCulloch

4. Correspondence

1. Global Marketing Group – Promoting merchandise for fundraising.
2. Scottish Childminding Association – Information on childminding.
3. Backchat. Not sent electronically this time. Lyn to check.
4. Scottish Parent Teacher Council – Membership and insurance 2009/10 due. To be passed to Ian Clark
5. Scottish Government Parent Council Newsletter and DVD – Promoting Parental Partnerships.
6. Letter from parent. Pupil petition about the girls toilets. Asking for support.

5. Treasurers Report

Ian Clark was unable to attend the meeting but advised a decision needed to be made regarding available funds of approximately £1150. The group discussed this. Clarification is needed if funds can be carried over to the following year, how funds can be used, at what stage in the year accounts are submitted and for which period. Lyn is to check with Ian.

Suggestions made:

Headteacher – I.T.resources.

Pupil Council - did not identify anything specific as they would need to discuss.

Upgrading toilets – Agreed this is the responsibility of Dumfries & Galloway Council.

Councillors Blake and Stitt will pursue this.

Agreed, if appropriate, to pay £1000 towards I.T.resources.

6. Update from Sub Groups

The current sub groups are **International Links** and **Social and Fundraising**.

- **International Links**

The new S1 students will be informed about the various links.

Links are continuing with Malawi. Some pupils studying French are visiting France this term and the German exchange is in June 2010.

Chinese visitors have now requested an invitation to visit. The invitation has been sent but has not been confirmed as yet. Some preparations have been made for a programme if the visit goes ahead. The Parent Council was asked if members could be involved by attending and also helping with catering for some meetings/ events.

- **Social and Fundraising**

Following the success of our first Craft Fair, this year it will be held on Friday 13th November 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £1.50. The Group was asked if we know anyone who has an interest in Arts and Crafts who would take a table at the event. The Social and Fundraising Group ask for a donation from each table.

Volunteers will be needed to help at the event. A meeting will be held at a later date.

- **Mobile Phone Policy**

The school is currently reviewing the Mobile Phone Policy. A draft has been prepared. Arrangements will be made for this to be circulated. Comments are invited from the Parent Council.

7. Headteachers Report

No headteachers report as a Newsdesk had recently circulated.

Dalbeattie High School Standards and Qualities Report 2009, Strategic Overview 2009-2010 and 2008-2009 SQA Course Awards were circulated for further discussion at the next meeting. Mr Bremner will attend.

A discussion was held on the School Website. It has been totally revamped and has lots of up to date school information, including copies of the new 09/10 school prospectus for S1, middle and senior school.

8. Pupil Council Report

Danielle Burgess has taken over as Chairperson of the Pupil Council. They have had one meeting since the new term. They discussed the Mobile Phone Policy and also the issue of common rooms and how there is not enough space to accommodate all the students.

There is an assembly on the 9th September for the new S1 students.

The Parent Council asked how pupils become involved in the Pupil Council. This is done by forms for any students who are interested in being on the council. The Pupil Council is made up of 3 representatives from each year group.

9. School Estate

There was discussion about this with the group concluding that a lot of information is still needed to clarify issues regarding funding and what would actually be available/accessible and for what purpose. i.e. is there funding available/accessible for all the options which have currently been proposed? We are also aware that further reports have been requested for the next Education Committee Meeting but to do not know what these are or their purpose. Would it be appropriate for the Parent Council to submit a report? Agreed Lyn will contact Rhona Wells for clarification.

The issue of communication was also raised and the importance of having positive links with others who are involved in the considerations regarding school estate, including cluster schools and the community council.

Our main aim is to ensure that all pupils and the wider community have access to educational provision which is appropriate for learning in the 21st century.

10. Liaison with Parent Forum

This is ongoing. 3 'new' parents/carers attended this meeting with a view to becoming involved. Thank you to them. There are still opportunities for others to be involved.

All minutes can be accessed on the School Website.

11. A.O.B.

Robert asked for a copy of the constitution prior to the AGM, which Lyn agreed to forward.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The AGM will be held on **Tuesday 29th September 09 at 7.00pm.**